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CBC NEWSLETTER

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 40 May/June 1994 Number 3

Looking Back: A CBC Success Story

In the Fall 1991 *CBC Newsletter* this question was posed: "How can the Carolina Bird Club help more of its members get out into the field and become better acquainted with the region's bird life?" This question was answereed with a description of special field trips that would be offered at times other than the three seasonal meetings. The first such field trip was to Mattamuskeet, Pungo and Phelps Lakes on November 17, 1991 and was attended by 20 CBC members. Since that beginning 28 additional specisal field trips have been organized by and for CBC members and described in our newsletter. As we look back at these trips (and look forward to future ones), here are some questions and answers regarding the first 29 trips:

Q. How many leaders have volunteered their time and expertise? **A.** 25. Thanks to Derb Carter, Robin Carter, Steve Cox, Evelyn Dabbs, Ricky Davis, Nathan Dias, Heyward Douglas, Graham Dugas, Jr., Bert Fisher, Dennis Forsythe, Donna Forsythe, John Fussell, Lex Glover, Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, Roger McNeill, Ned Shuler, Teddy Shuler, Mike Smith, Simon Thompson, Mike Tove, Russ Tyndall, Bob Wood, John Wright, and Paula Wright.

Q. Which trip had the most participants? **A.** The Roanoke River trip, June 6, 1992, had 35 participants and three leaders.

Q. On which trip were the greatest number of species of birds seen? **A.** The Amazon/Ecuador trip, February 12-21, 1993 (total species: 337).

Q. Which trip was weathered out? **A.** No, it wasn't a pelagic trip. The Highland County, Virginia trip was cancelled due to an ice storm.

Q. How many trips have been co-sponsored by the CBC and the NC State Museum of Natural Sciences? **A.** Three trips to the Outer Banks.

Q. Which trip reported an ocean-going Yellow-breasted Chat? **A.** The August 21, 1993 South Carolina offshore trip.

Q. How many members have participated on these trips? **A.** Around 430 reservations were made and paid for. Obviously, many members have gone on more than one trip, however.

Because of the tremendous support by both leaders and participants, the Carolina Bird Blub intends to continue to offer the special field trips. Please check your Newsletters for details of upcoming trips. If you would like to volunteer to lead a trip or have any suggestions about possible trips, please contact the CBC Special Field Trip coordinators: Lex Glover, PO Box 117, Lugoff, SC 29078, tel. (803) 438-1703 or John Wright, 1953-A Quail Ridge Road, Greenville, NC 27858, tel. (919) 756-5139.

. . .Paula Wright

Fall Meeting Preview

Santee, South Carolina will be the location for the 1994 fall meeting of the Carolina Bird Club. The dates for this meeting are September 23-25. The last time we were in this area was back in the early 1980's; so the Executive Committee thought that it was time for us to return.

We will be hoping for cold fronts pushing migrants south as we visit Santee national Wildlife Refuge and surrounding areas. Of particular interest will be the Super Sod Farm near Orangeburg, SC. This extensive sod farm has produced a variety of shorebirds in the fall, including Lesser Golden Plover, Upland and Buff-breasted.Sandpiper. There will also be a bird banding demonstration at the home of Tommy and Evelyn Dabbs. Full details and registration information for field trips will be in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The Ramada Inn in Santee will be the headquarters for this meeting. Room rates are $40.00 for single and $44.00 for double occupancy. plus 7% tax. For reservations use the form provided in the Newsletter or call (803) 854-2191. The deadline for reservations is August 15. Other motels in close proximity to the Ramada Inn are: Best Western Santee Inn (803) 854-3089 and Quality Inn-Clarks (803) 854-2141. Cabins and camping are available at Santee State Park (803) 854-2408.

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Notes From A Southern Pelagic Expedition: Antarctica

For those of you who have braved the open ocean in search of those most difficult species, the seabirds, Antarctica is the epitome of pelagic birding. It is also a place of spectacular beauty: great glaciers rising like giant white cliffs above the still Antarctic waters, icebergs of bizarre shapes and painted in streaks and washes of neon blue contrasting against the harshest climate and most hostile continent on earth.

This past March, I had the opportunity to visit this magnificent wonderland, placed on earth, it seems, from some distant galaxy by strange aliens; for it is not of this earth. The following are a few excerpts from my journal, edited a bit for clarity. If it inspires you to dream a bit, good; if it motivates you to join "the club," all the better.

Thursday, March 3. After a restless first night at sea, I went up on deck to look about. The Drake Passage is a body of water that lies between the southern tip of South America, known as Cape Horn, and the Antarctic Peninsula. This body of water is infamous for its sudden violent storms and impossibly rough waters. Captain Bligh spent 18 days unsuccessfully trying to round the Horn to reach the Pacific, gave up, and circumnavigated the globe as an easier alternative.

Today the seas are relatively calm, waves only three or four feet. Were I aboard a small fishing boat they might be a little bumpy at best, but not to the "Akademik Ioffe." This is a 383 foot ultramodern ice-breaker class ship built in Finland expressly for these waters. She is owned by the Russian Academy of Sciences and leased to a Canadian tour firm that has hired me as a naturalist.

Although the day started slowly, it soon picked up. The first birds were Black-browed Albatrosses, gliding effortlessly along looking a lot like long-winged versions of Great Black-backed Gulls. Familiar friends, Wilson's Storm-petrels, pattered ahead of the boat, looking no different than they do off Hatteras in summer. With them were Black-bellied Storm-Petrels and coursing by from time to time were a mixture of Soft-plumaged Petrels and two species of Prions. Suddenly, a dashing black and white bird shot in from nowhere, lapped the boat. twice at arm's length and vanished--my first Cape Petrel.

Friday, March 5. This afternoon we made our first landing at Deception Island, a caldera that is part of a group of subantarctic islands just north of the continent itself. All morning our proximity was evident as groups of Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins porpoised beside the ship. Gone were the Soft-Plumaged Petrels of yesterday, replaced by Cape Petrels, a fabulously beautiful seabird. Equally grand are the Gray-headed Albatrosses (the pearl gray head of the adult is accented by a yellow-striped black bill) and the wondrous Light-mantled Sooty Albatross.

On shore, scores of Antarctic Fur Seals littered the black rocky shore. Skuas of every plumage variation imaginable abounded. Most, if not all of these were South Polar Skuas; although I'm sure some may have been South Polar x Brown Skua hybrids. Surprisingly, there were no obviously larger birds which would be pure Brown Skuas. At one point, there were two dozen sitting on or flying about one small pond, the closest being ten inches as it hovered menacingly over my head.

Sunday, March 6. I woke around 6:15 a.m. and went on deck. A fresh snow had blanketed the ship. All around were the high cliffs of the Lemaire Channel, a narrow passage often blocked by icebergs, of which there were many. Adding to the pristine scene, a Snow Petrel, as white as its namesake, flew past and landed on an iceberg. The moment it touched down, it vanished, being perfectly camouflaged. Petermann Island, our destination for the morning, lay ahead. The slopes, painted in pastel reds and greens, are colored by algal blooms fed by the guano of thousands of Gentoo and Adiele penguins packed onto the shores. Ahead of the ship floated a giant iceberg, a great blue sentry blocking our way. Deftly, the Ioffe was inching her way around the monolith when suddenly it split, calving off a huge slab of ice that came crashing into the water with the roar of a freight train. Further ahead, a huge berg 100 feet tall, hollowed out in the center, formed a perfect arch above the sea.

Friday, March 11. We're back in the Drake, starting another tour, this time in the teeth of a Force 11 storm with sustained winds of 60 knots and seas to 25 feet, maybe more. Not many birds fly about in conditions such as these, except the albatrosses. In particular, Wandering and Royal albatrosses, the largest of all flying birds, wheeled about, some following the ship for hours. In spite of the unbelievably rough conditions, the Ioffe handled it better than the charter fishing boats I frequent handle 8 foot seas.

Sunday, March 13. Under clear blue skies, we made a landing at the British Research station of Port Lockroy to visit the Gentoo Penguin colony. Theirs is a world of cacophonous bleating and wretched stench, and mud and ice and the dangers of the sea. Penguins have little to fear on land short of egg-stealing skuas. In the water, death comes cruelly at the jaws of the Leopard Seal. Today, one was on a rampage of carnage, killing penguin after penguin. The first few, it ate. The last and most poignant was a Gentoo that for 20 minutes put up a valiant but futile effort to escape the game of cat and mouse. In the end, it lost when the seal, tire of the game, broke its neck and swam off.

Wednesday, March 16. Today we left the Drake Passage and the great white continent for the last time, at least this season. The seas were an amazing 40 feet, looking like giant plowed rows the size of four-story buildings. Wandering and Royal albatrosses followed the ship all day, as did a "squadron" of Cape Petrels. I call them that because they remind me of a squadron of fighter planes strafing past the bridge in formation. All our southern ocean friends, the albatrosses, giant petrels, petrels, prions and the like were there, as if to say "good-bye."

This is truly a wondrous place, indescribably beautiful and yet harsh and challenging. It challenges one's sense of importance for it humbles all who venture there.

. . . Mike Tove

Backyard Birding

with Frances J. Nelson

May 9, 1994...Letters from fellow backyard birders were fewer than last time, but I did receive several. One from Ann **Bailes** (Anderson, SC) dated April 7 contained winter news. A Red-breasted Nuthatch began using her window feeder the last week in January. It's the first one she and her husband have had at their feeders in their seven years of bird feeding. The Red-breasted visited regularly until April 4, but now a Brown-headed Nuthatch has begun feeding. The Bailes were inundated with Pine Warblers in January and February. They had an occasional one before, but this winter they had more warblers than goldfinches (perhaps that's why CJ and I only saw one Pine Warbler at our marvel meal--the warblers spent the winter further south). The Bailes had only one Purple Finch but plenty of House Finches, and now they have a "destructive" Red-bellied Woodpecker. The woodpecker, a usual visitor, empties the feeder by hitting it until the seed is on the ground. And the Bailes think that they may have a Fish Crow nesting in the woods across from their house. They've heard the crows before, but this year they have seen one carrying nesting materials to a pine tree.

Speaking of Fish Crows, CJ and I did a little extended backyard birding with **Eloise Potter** at her home in Zebulon, NC. She lives next to a golf course, and early one Saturday the three of us birded around the edges. We saw a Fish Crow building a nest in a pine tree. Although we saw the bird carry nesting material into the tree, we had difficulty finding the spot. Once we did find the nest, we marked the tree by propping several large sticks against the base. Now it's up to Eloise to keep us informed of the activity. We also saw more pairs of Wood Ducks than we have seen at one time, two Pileated Woodpeckers, along with the usual wrens, cardinals, chickadees and titmice. We heard a Common Yellowthroat, but we never could see it.

Our own yard has been active, too. The Evening Grosbeaks stayed with us until at least May 5. We left home that day for the weekend and have not seen the grosbeaks since our return on the 8th.

At the end of March, I saw a Blue Grosbeak sitting in the top of a small pear tree in the yard at the beginning of our road. He never made it the 0.7 miles to our house until April 15, a refreshing sight on that particular day.

Four Wood Ducks spent two or three days on and around our pond beginning March 23, but they did not nest in the box CJ put up four years ago (the Starlings use it since the ducks don't). CJ saw a Louisiana Waterthrush on the creek on March 27 and a pair of them fussed at him on April 12. Now when we walk through the woods and get near a particular area by the creek, the waterthrushes let us know that they don't appreciate our intrusion.

We heard a Summer Tanager for the first time on April 11 and saw him in the backyard April 12. Now he spends most of the day in the front yard trying to get to the marvel meal or eating suet. The female has no problems with the marvel meal. She flies to it, eats her fill, and heads back to her probable nest (she disappears into the same tree every time).

April was a busy birding month for us. We saw Blue-gray Gnatcatchers for the first time this year on April 6; the first hummingbird arrived April 7, three days earlier than last year; Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows began calling April 10; an Indigo Bunting showed up on April 16; CJ heard a Yellow-breasted Chat April 21; and a Solitary Sandpiper appeared April 22. On that day we also found our 108th property bird--an American Redstart.

May also started out feathered. On May first, CJ heard a Scarlet Tanager, and on May 2, he saw the bird in our backyard. On May 3, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak arrived. One usually comes about this time and hangs around for a few days. I haven't seen him yet, but I'm not giving up. I did hear him singing one afternoon, but neither CJ nor I could find the elusive bird. I'm sorry we had made plans to leave for the weekend. If we had stayed home, maybe we coul have seen the Evening, Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks in our yard at the same time. When we returned from our trip on May 8, we did not see any grosbeaks, but three male Indigo Buntings awaited us in the backyard--all three were full-grown, and their iridescent blue cloaks added quite a bit of color to the yard.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Kelly Davis of Swan Quarter, NC, also had some color. Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds used the feeders there on March 7-10 and again on March 14. Kelly Davis also reports that a colleague saw an American Black Duck brood at Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge in Carteret County on March 30.

The final letter came from **Richard Murray**, Little River, SC, who asked some friends of his, **Mr. and Mrs. Donald Jackson**, N. Myrtle Beach, SC, to share their bird renovation story. The Jacksons put up a pine bark bird house on March 15, and two days later, a pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches claimed it. The Jacksons saw the nuthatches carry nesting material into the house and heard what sounded like hammering going on inside the house from morning until night for a week. Then the Jacksons watched the nuthatches carry more nesting material to the house. A third nuthatch showed up on day to inspect, but the others ran the unwanted guest off. Finally, on April 25, four fledglings vacated the house and the Jacksons were able to examine it. They discovered that some of the nesting material had been "hammered" into the side seams and roof eaves of the house. I wonder if the nuthatches would do the same "sealing" if the seams were puttied? Or perhaps they just needed to personalize their temporary dwelling.

I will really need to hear from you for the next newsletter (deadline to get material to me is July 8) because CJ and I will be travelling most of the month of June visiting family and friends in Oklahoma, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Maryland. I'm sure we will do some birding, but I won't have much to report from our own backyard. I'd like to hear about yours: *1006 Dogwood Hill Lane, Wake Forest, NC 27585.*

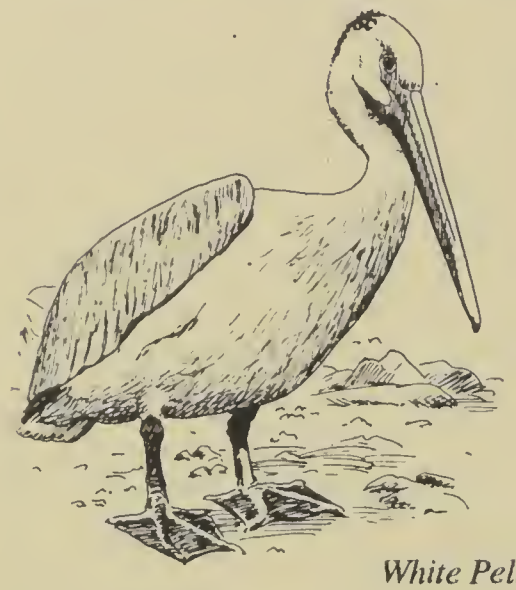
A North Carolina Big Year In 1993

by Steve Dinsmore

Let me begin by saying that, like others before me, I had no serious intentions of doing a Big Year in North Carolina in 1993. However, since my year list included several rarities by the end of February, I began to think about the possibility of doing one. I guess it was sometime in April, after some thought and a bit of prodding by John Fussell, that I decided to try to see as many species as possible in the state during 1993. I hoped to make a run at John Wright's record 327 species seen during 1991. Little did I know how successful the year would be.

The success of any Big Year depends on careful planning and spending lots of time birding. It was the latter strategy that I emphasized during the year. My research on shorebirds meant that I would be spending almost half of the year on the Outer Banks, most of it during the productive fall migration period. There are a tremendous number of birds that occur regularly on the Outer Banks, and I hoped to see many of these during the course of my work. I also planned several trips to other parts of the state to pick up local specialties.

The year began on a good note in January. While participating in the Southport CBC on Jan. 3, I added my first good birds: American White Pelican (#91) and Barn Owl (#100). My first of many trips to the Outer Banks was on Jan. 13-14, when I added Little Gull (#141) at Cape Hatteras. On the way home I stopped at Lake Mattamuskeet and saw the Eared Grebe (#150) found earlier on the Christmas bird count. On Jan. 22-24 I visited Portsmouth Island to survey shorebirds there and added several good birds including Black-legged Kittiwake (#154) and Curlew Sandpiper (#156), the latter the same bird present since July, 1992, and apparently attempting to overwinter. I also added Ring-necked Pheasant (#159) , a species now confined to Cape Lookout National Seashore. On Jan. 29, Jeremy Nance, John Fussell and I birded Open Grounds Farm north of Morehead City and saw a small flock of Brewer's Blackbirds (#162). That afternoon, we decided to check the Carteret County landfill at Newport for unusual



White Pelican

gulls and found two Glaucous Gulls (#163), an Iceland Gull (#164), and a California Gull (#165).

The good birding continued in February. On Feb. 2, I saw a male Rufous Hummingbird (#167) that was coming to a feeder in Raleigh. On Feb. 5, Jeremy Nance and I made a trip to Wilmington and saw a Western Tanager (#169) at a feeder there. Feb. 19, Fussell, Nance and I were hoping our luck with unusual gulls would continue. The night before, we discussed the possibility of finding a Mew Gull. Incredibly, we found a Mew gull (#175) at Cape Hatteras that morning and found an adult Thayer's Gull (#176) nearby. On Feb. 20, Nance and I saw a Razorbill (#178) fly by Cape Hatteras. I was in Puerto Rico for the first half of March and probably could have taken the whole month off. I added only four birds during the month, including a flock of Common Mergansers (#182) and an American Tree Sparrow (#184) at Falls Lake on March 14. My year list now stood at 185 and included a number of good birds. Could I keep up the pace?

The month of April was generally unexciting. I added a lot of migrants and resident species, bringing my list to 212 by April 19. I left for Portsmouth Island on April 20 where I would be studying Sanderlings for the next seven weeks. On April 21, I found four Common Eiders (#219) in the surf off my cabin there. Then, on April 24, I found two Bar-tailed Godwits (#224) on the flats at Portsmouth Island; the second year in a row at this location. By the end of April my list was 228; about what I expected for this time.

Successful birding during May was necessary if I hoped to challenge the record. With that in mind, I had planned a Big Day in early May with Jeremy Nance and a three day pelagic trip late in the month. The month got off to a great start when I found an adult Reddish Egret (#229) on May 1 at New Drum Inlet. On May 2, I was excited to find two American Swallow-tailed Kites (#230) soaring over deserted Portsmouth village. I made a quick trip to Wrightsville Beach on May 3 and saw the Black Guillemot (3232) found there in late April. Jeremy and I did the Big Day on May 6, starting in Raleigh and ending at dusk on Portsmouth Island. We saw 172 species for the day, including a Cerulean Warbler (#257) at Lake Raleigh. The rest of May was slow on Portsmouth; my only good finds being a Roseate Tern (#260) on the eleventh and a Gray Kingbird (#263) on the twenty-fourth. I birded the Gulf Stream waters off Cape Hatteras May 29-31. In addition to the expected pelagic species, I added a problematical skua (#270), Long-tailed Jaeger (#273), and Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (#274). The skua was thought by some to be a Brown Skua; although the possibility of a hybrid South Polar cannot be easily ruled out. Anyway, it was a great find. By the end of May my list was a respectable 274.

My research on Portsmouth island concluded in early June, but not before I added Shiny Cowbird (#275) on the tenth at Cape Lookout. My first trip to the mountains was June 17-19, when I birded the Great Balsams and the Highlands area. I picked up most of the expected species, the best being Red Crossbill (#282) and Northern Saw-whet Owl (#286). June 21-22 I made another trip to the mountains, this time to more northern areas around Grandfather Mountain and in Ashe County. The best finds were Blue-winged Warbler (#292) and Golden-winged Warbler (#293) in the same area near New River State Park. On a tip from Merrill Lynch I found Henslow's Sparrows (#295) in Edgecombe County on the twenty-seventh. My 300th species of the year,

(continued on page 6)

CBC Summer Field Trip

Blue Ridge Parkway
Leader: Simon Thompson

June 5, 1994
Limit: 15 Participants **Cost:** $10

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville. From there we will carpool south on the Parkway stopping at Mt. Pisgah, Graveyard Fields, Devils Courthouse, Richland Balsam, Balsam Mountains and other overlooks in search of the specialities of the area. Canadian Zone birds such as Red Crossbill, Blackburnian Warbler and Black-capped Chickadee are possibilities.

We will plan to stop for lunch along the way so bring a picnic lunch and something to drink.

Directions: from I-40 take Exit 55 to US 70W following signs to Blue Ridge Parkway. The Folk Art Center is one-half mile north at Milepost 382.

Nearby accomodations accessible from Exit 55 are Best Inns of America, (704) 298-4000, Econo Lodge Biltmore East, (704) 298-5519, Days Inn-East (704) 298-5140, and Holiday Inn-East (704) 298-5611.

Registration: Contact Simon Thompson at (704) 859-6049 evenings to reserve space. Mail registration form with fee to CBC headquarters.

Field Trip Yields Walk on Rail Road

by Patricia Earnhardt

Cheers and high-fives were shared between birders who saw a Henslow's Sparrow on the April 30 CBC field trip in Pitt County. But the celebration over seeing a Black Rail walk in front of the group drowned out the excitement caused by the little sparrow.

The Henslow's Sparrow/Spring Migrants field trip was probably not what those who signed up had expected--it was more!

Most of the 17 birders who came from across North Carolina and Georgia were counting on seen a Henslow's. Few in the group had ever seen the little sparrow outside of a field guide, and the trip summary focused on it as the target bird. The plan to travel first to Chicod Creek for warblers changed once the group assembled. Henslow's are said to sing early in the day, so the group loaded up, left Greenville, and headed to one of three Voice of America sites around the Pitt County area.

Scopes and binoculars at the ready, the group listened for the bird's song. Not a great deal of luck. Folks who had not seen a Grasshopper Sparrow had plenty of chances as several sprang to the tops of swaying grasses and met the morning with an insect-like greeting.

With the chance of migrant warblers still in mind we left the VOA--with plans to return later--and headed to Chicod Creek. Many woodland birds greeted the group as cars pulled off next to the highway. Red-eyed, White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos skulked in the trees, but sang to let us know they were around. A Kentucky, Worm-eating and a Swainson's Warbler challenged those who wanted a look, but unsuccessful trips across the muddy creek yielded only their songs. Prothonotary Warblers dropped into sight to show off their golden upper bodies, and Yellow-throated and Hooded Warblers zipped past to challenge even the quickest eyes.

A territorial display by a pair of Louisiana Waterthrushes gave most of the group a chance for a good, long look. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo also came into the open for a special end to the mile-long walk.

It was time to head back toward the VOA site; where we had permission to go on the grounds to find the Henslow's. With grass stretching as far as we could see, birders again grabbed their equipment and looked and listened. A "tslick" from the grass brought certainty. They were on the site!

Marching through the grass it was possible to flush two of the birds, but the diagnostic song was not sung. It's possible that many of the group had mentally checked off the sparrow--heard Henslow's song, saw bird, check--but one more opportunity came. Clear as day, a Henslow's Sparrow atop a scraggly bush, threw back its head and belted out a memorable "tslick." One birder remarked: "that's two points--one for seeing it and one for seeing it sing." A satisfied group left after a visit into the VOA building for a tour and explanation of the transmitting site.

It was on to some nearby catfish ponds that have attracted Bald Eagles to the area, among other birds. Migrating Black Vultures circled above and gave all an opportunity to compare Blacks to Turkey Vultures. In the top of one pine tree sat an immature Balk Eagle, and just below an adult caught our attention as it hunkered down to lunch.

The early afternoon allowed for shorebirding along the Pamlico River. Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers were among the afternoon sightings. A trip to Goose Creek State Park allowed the group to appreciates the east's thriving tick population and see a few more warblers.

After dinner, and departures by a few in the group, we headed to Leachville, near Belhaven, to listen for rails and Marsh Wrens. With bug repellent and boots we headed into the marsh. First was Virginia Rail. They called, and we trudged on through the grasses trying to see them. A few of us were startled when a pair ran right under foot. (continued next page)

Big Year

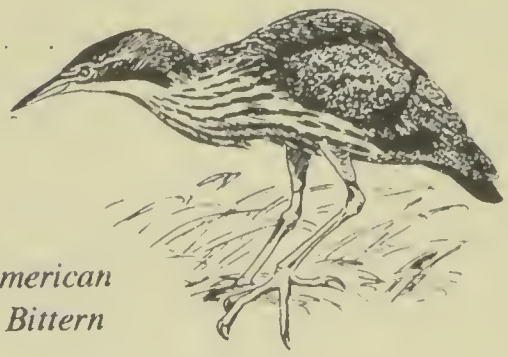
(continued from page 4)

King Rail, came on July 15 at Eagle Island near Wilmington. On July 22, I made a trip to Sunset Beach to see Wood Stork (#301). A White-tailed Tropicbird (#302) on July 24 in the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras was a great find. By the end of July my list had grown to 303.

At the end of July, I moved to Buxton where I planned to live until late November while continuing my shorebird research. Unexpected back surgery in late October changed those plans and caused me to miss nearly a month of birding on the Outer Banks. Still, the fall was exciting, and I saw a number of good birds. During August I hoped to add several missing shorebirds and pelagic species to my list. A trip to Clam Shoal on August 8 produced a Mute Swan (#304). During my five days offshore, I added only one species, an Arctic Tern (#305) on the fifteenth. Shorebirding was excellent during August at Pea Island, where I added Baird's Sandpiper (#306) on the eighteenth and Ruff (#308) on the thirtieth as I was leaving the island ahead of Hurricane Emily.

Birding picked up in September, when I added 12 species. The highlight of a Sept. 12 pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (#312) that landed on the boat. Another pelagic trip on the eighteenth produced Sabine's Gull (#313) and Masked Booby (#314). Birding after cold fronts late in the month produced Clay-colored Sparrow (#319) on the twenty-fifth and Philadelphia Vireo (#320) on the twenty-eighth. Several good cold fronts in early October allowed me to see most of my missing passerines, including Wilson's and Black-throated Green Warblers. The best bird of the month was an immature Swainson's Hawk (#321) on Oct. 3 at the north end of Pea Island, where it was discovered by Eric Dean. On Oct. 19, I saw my first Western Kingbird (#326) in the company of an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (#327) at the Cape Hatteras Campground. The next day an American Bittern (#328) at Cape Hatteras allowed me to eclipse John Wright's record for seeing the most species of birds in North Carolina in one year. The good birding in late October continued with a flock of eleven Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (#329) at Cape Hatteras on the twenty-first, thanks to a tip from Marcia Lyons. The month ended with Dickcissel (#330) on the twenty-third at Cape Hatteras and Black Rail (#331) on the twenty-fourth at Wanchese. I spent most of November recuperating from surgery, but I did manage a trip to Cape Hatteras on the thirteenth to see a Western Grebe (#332) . I added a Short-eared Owl (#333) on the way home at First Colony Farms near Lake Phelps. Other November additions were a Greater White-fronted Goose (#334) at Lake Raleigh on the twenty-fifth and a male Harlequin Duck (#335 at Oregon Inlet on the twenty-ninth. A Dec. 5 trip to the Roan Mountain area gave me my first Evening Grosbeak (#336). A lone Lapland Longspur (#337) in northern Edgecombe County on Dec. 7 was the result of a tip from Ricky Davis. My last chance to add year birds was in late December when I participated on three Christmas Bird Counts. I added no year birds during the counts; although several were seen by others on those counts. I spent the last day of the year birding the Outer Banks. That afternoon, a Red-necked Grebe (#338) at Coquina Beach became my last bird of the year.

Needless to say, I was pleased with the way the year turned out. My total of 338 species during 1993 exceeded my expectation. One might think such a total would include nearly every species seen in the state during the year, but this wasn't the case. I missed a number of species that I should have seen, most notably Least Bittern and Red Phalarope. Other species I consider to be misses include Ross' Goose, King Eider, Common Black-headed Gull, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. All of these species are annual on the Outer Banks, and I should have seen them during the course of my work there. Is it possible to see 340 species in North Carolina during one year? I think it is. However, the person who tries will have to live on the Outer Banks for most, if not all, of the year. There are just too many birds found there and nowhere else in the state. I figure that I saw 19 species during 1993 that I probably would not have seen unless I lived on the Outer Banks.



American Bittern

Field Trip

(continued from previous page)

Virginia Rail

With Virginia Rail marked, it was time to listen for Black Rail. Across the road one was heard. We lined the marsh, ready to walk in. The bird came closer, calling every so often. Then it growled right at our feet, but through the grass there was no luck at seeing the little fellow. Changing strategy, we walked into the marsh and waited at the edge of an open area. "Kik-Kee-Kar," "Kik-Kee-Kar"-- he headed toward us, out in the wide open for all of us to get an unbelievably incredible view. Even the cheers and "oh yesses" did not deter him. And of course, no one had a camera. He marched back into the grasses, and we left him as we jumped, hollered and hugged all the way back to the car. It was simply phenomenal!

CBC Rare Bird Alert

(704) 332-BIRD

Membership Application and Order Form

Name_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Tel. ( )_____ ( )_____
(home) (business)

Enter/Renew Membership As Indicated

____Individual ($12)
____Family ($15)
____Student ($6)
____Affiliate Club ($15)
____Library/Institution ($15)
____Life ($200)
____Patron ($50)

Send Materials Indicated

____CBC Cloth arm patch $1.50 ea., $1.25 ea. in quantity
____CBC Decals (vinyl stick-on) $1.50 ea., $1.25 ea. in quantity
____Daily Checklists 10/$1.00, 25/$1.25, 50/$2.50, 75/$3.75 100/$5.00

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and mail to PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Registration Form

CBC Special Field Trips

Name(s)_____
(list each participant)

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $_____for the following field trips: ____Blue Ridge Parkway, June 5, 1994 ($10). I have called the appropriate trip leader to ensure that space is available.

Mail with check to Carolina Bird Club, Inc., PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Registration Form

CBC Fall Meeting, September 23-25, 1994

Name(s)_____
(list each name for name tags)

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $_____for _____member registrations at $4 each and _____nonmember registrations at $5 each. Registration at meeting will be $5 for members and $6 for nonmembers.

Mail with check to Carolina Bird Club, Inc., PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Ramada Inn Reservation Form

Carolina Bird Club
Fall Meeting, September 23-25, 1994

Name_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Please reserve _____single occupancy room(s) at $40 plus 7% tax per night and/or _____double occupancy room(s) at $44 plus 7% tax per night. Arrival _____ Departure_____. My check for the first night's lodging is enclosed.

Mail with deposit to Ramada Inn, PO Box 501, Santee, SC 29142 or call (803) 854-2191

Welcome New Members

James & Wilma Anthony
Seneca, SC

Debbie Bowen
Marietta, GA

H. Vann Britt
Raleigh, NC

Kelly Davis
Swan Quarter, NC

Rachel Dieter & Peter Reinhart
West Columbia, SC

Clair D. Dodd
Raleigh, NC

Eleanor E. Ellison
Lithonia, GA

Connie Eubanks
Jefferson, SC

Kathy Fitzpatrick
Boone, NC

Diane E. Hahn
Sunset Beach, NC

Jerome G. Lommel
Modesto, CA

Ashley McMillan *
Conway, SC

Craig Miller
Pendleton, SC

Rose Mitchell
Charleston, SC

Tom & Ida O'Connell
Black Mountain, NC

Jane & George Polk
Seneca, SC

Peter Range
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Casey Rhinehart
Statesville, NC

Mark Robinson
Knightdale, NC

Lynette & Anthony Savereno
Mt. Pleasant, SC

M/M E. H. Smith
Asheville, NC

Jane H. Srail
Statesville, NC

Paul Stoudenmire
Bradley, SC

Sarah Wilson
Pawleys Island, SC

Donald & Alice Wood
Pinehurst, NC

**student membership (10th grade)*

Deceased

Theodore A. Beckett, III
Johns Island, SC

Dr. Paul A. Stewart
Oxford, NC

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